

OIA BULLETIN

OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ASSISTANCE
(701) 328-2094

WINTER 1998

OIA Fills Key Positions

Larry Martin was recently hired as OIA's new Business Manager. He started January 5th. Martin has worked for Community Action Opportunities in Minot for the past six years. He is a graduate of Minot State University, a certified public accountant (CPA), and is a member of the North Dakota State CPA Society.

"Our agency has an biennial budget of nearly \$40 million, and maintains procedures to transfer funds for hundreds of local projects and monitors the use of those funds. Larry's accounting skills and familiarity with the agency's mission will allow us to complete these tasks even more efficiently," said OIA Director, Dina Butcher.

Martin replaces David Krabbenhoft, who has become a budget analyst for the state Office of Management and Budget.

Lee DeBaillie was hired as an Energy Engineer in December. DeBaillie moved to Bismarck from Champaign, Illinois, where he was a research engineer for the Construction Engineering Research Laboratories for the past six years. He has both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Illinois. He's a member of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE), and is a registered professional engineer.

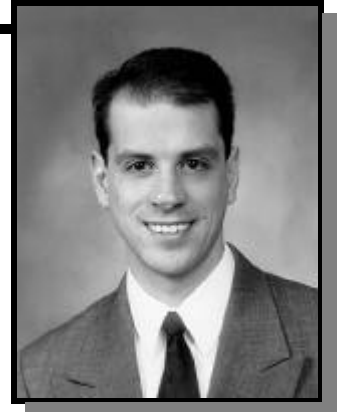
In his new position, DeBaillie will work primarily with state facilities to reduce energy consumption.

Butcher explained that DeBaillie had never been to North Dakota before he came here for his job interview. "We're fortunate that someone with Lee's experience and qualifications decided to relocate," she said.

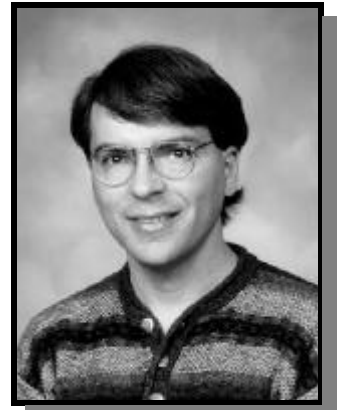
"We're committed to reducing state government's operating costs wherever possible, and with Lee's background, he can address the energy expenses of major state facilities."

Tran Doan was hired as an Account/Budget Specialist, and started earlier this month. He previously was Grant Administrator/Disaster Coordinator for the North Central Planning Council, where he administered CDBG grants for public facility, housing, and urgent need projects and assisted local governments with planning and efforts to locate funds for projects. He has a B.S. degree from NDSU, with majors in accounting and business administration.

"These positions are significant in the agency's efforts to streamline government. We handle programs and dollars which impact every community in the state with a very small staff. The expertise of our new people promote efficiencies in state government at the same time," Butcher said.



Larry Martin, Business Manager



Lee DeBaillie, Energy Engineer



*Tran Doan
Account/Budget Specialist*

OIA Provides Funds for Beulah Senior Housing Project

Beulah's historic Middle School will be refurbished this winter to become housing for elderly people.

Dakota West Contracting has been working on the \$2.2 million project. The Lewis and Clark Community Housing Development Organization is working on the project in partnership with MetroPlains Development, Inc.

Funding sources include:

- ' USDA Rural Development
- ' State Housing Finance Agency
- ' Office of Intergovernmental Assistance
- ' State Historical Society
- ' Beulah City Manager

The project divides the 77-year old structure into 26 one-bedroom apartments with 586 square feet each, and 2 two-bedroom units with 925 square feet. The facility will also have a community/meeting room, and various senior services will be available to the residents. A meal service will also be made available.

\$172,000 in HOME funds were provided by the OIA.



From left to right, Darold Benz, Mayor of Beulah; Dina Butcher, Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Assistance; Gary L. Stenson, MetroPlains developer; Charles Mertens, State Director of Rural Development for USDA; Howard Torgerson, Bank of Beulah; and Rob Knoll, Lewis and Clark Regional Development Council attend ground breaking on the School House Apartments.

Streamlining the Nation's Building Regulatory Process

If you think all levels of government have become too burdensome in their building regulatory processes, then "Streamlining" should be of interest to you.

Fifty-five (55) national public and private associations and agencies from all levels of government have joined in partnership with the National Conference of States on Building Codes and Standards (NCSBCS) to undertake a five year initiative to bring common sense to our nation's building regulatory processes through a project called "Streamlining the Nation's Building Regulatory Process."

The objective of this project is "to enhance economic development, public safety, and environmental quality by developing and gaining government implementation of model processes, rules, regulations, and procedures that bring common sense and better management to the construction process in this nation." The goal of the project is to reduce by as much as 60 percent the amount of regulatory processing time it takes to move construction projects from the initial step of zoning approval through to the last step of the issuance of the certificate of occupancy.

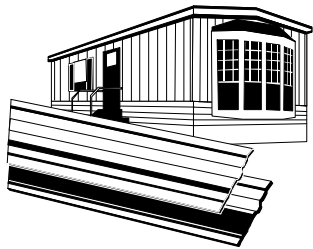
NCSBCS is seeking assistance from all levels of government to identify modes of "best practices." This is a great opportunity to create positive change and to make an impact for the benefit of the entire nation. For more information you can contact:

Carolyn Fitch
505 Huntmar Park Drive
Suite 210
Herndon, VA 20170
(703) 437-0100

You can also find out about NCSBCS and the Streamlining project on the Internet at <http://www.ncsbcs.org>.

Manufactured Housing Program

Since August 1997, the North Dakota Office of the Attorney General has been forwarding manufactured housing complaints to the OIA. Because of this, we have decided to write this article about HUD's Manufactured Housing Program.



The Manufactured Housing Program is a consumer protection program that regulates the construction of manufactured homes, formerly known as mobile homes. The program is a HUD program.

One part of this program provides a system for consumer complaints. HUD has cooperative agreements with 36 states to respond to consumer complaints. These states designate a State Administrative Agency (SAA). For the 14 states that are not an SAA, of which North Dakota is one, HUD is the SAA, but many people are not aware of this.

Under the HUD Manufactured Housing Program, if a problem arises with a manufactured home, the first contact should be with the retailer. If the retailer cannot

help, the second contact should be to the manufacturer. Complaints should be in writing and include the serial number of the home with a list of the problems. The list should contain any known factors that contributed to the problem.

If the retailer and the manufacturer do not resolve concerns, the next contact should be with HUD, acting as the state's SAA. In contacting HUD, the following information must be provided:

- ' Your name, address, and a telephone number where you can be reached during the day;

- ' The name of the manufacturer, serial and model number, label number (the red tag on the back of the home), the date purchased, and the name of the retailer; and
- ' A description of the problem along with copies of any correspondence or contacts with the retailer and the manufacturer to resolve the problem.

The office within HUD that will handle consumer complaints from North Dakota is:

Manufactured Housing and Standards Division, Office of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th St. SW, Room 9152, Washington, DC 20410-8000, 1-800-927-2891 or 202-708-6423.

Should you have any questions, contact Richard Gray of the OIA at 328-3698.

Consolidated Plan on Schedule

The Office of Intergovernmental Assistance (OIA) is on schedule in developing the state's 1998 Action Plan, which serves as the state's grant application to the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME, Emergency Shelter (ESG) Grants, and programs.

In 1998, the state expects to receive a total of \$9,461,000 for these three programs.

On February 4, 1998, the OIA conducted a public hearing to obtain input on the housing and non-housing community development needs that should be addressed by these programs in 1998. The 1998 Draft Action

Plan was made available for public comments from February 10, 1998 through March 12, 1998. The state expects HUD to release funds on May 1, 1998, so that communities can begin projects this summer.

For more information or to receive a copy of the Action Plan, call Richard Gray at 328-3698.

OIA Web Page

**North Dakota Office of Intergovernmental Assistance****Mission Statement****Phone Directory****E-Mail Directory****Organizational Chart**

The OIA is now on line!!

A new web page is now up and running. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/intergov/>.

The web page contains information on various programs administered by the office, as well as links to specific staff and related programs and agencies.

Program areas include, community development programs, energy conservation and renewable energy programs, low income assistance programs, and governmental/technical assistance. Links are also provided to additional sites for data from such agencies as the Census Bureau, and other federal boards and bureaus. Regional development councils

and Community Action Agencies listings are also referenced.

You can also place orders for energy conservation publications online through the web page.

OIA managers stress that the site is under construction and revision.

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